

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5401

INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0608

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MT, LY

SUBJ: PRESS REPORTS ON MALTA/LIBYA UNION

1. MARCH 31 ISSUE OF MEDITERRANEAN NEWS

(ENGLISH LANGUAGE WEEKLY PUBLISHED IN MALTA BOF LIBYAN MARKET)

FRONT PAGED REPORT FROM LEBANESE WEEKLY ASSAYAD THAT MINTOFF AND QADHAFI HAD DISCUSSIED THE POSSIBILITY OF A UNION OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, BUT THAT DIFFERENCES IN THEIR POLITICAL SYSTEMS "MAY HAVE FORESTALLED" SUCH TALKS. ASSAYED ALLEGED REPORTED THAT MINTOFF HAD REVEALED THIS DURING HIS FEBEUARY TRIP TO BAHREIN.

2. APRIL 1 IN-NAZZJON TAGHNA/(NATIONALIST OPPOSITION DAILY)

AND TIMES OF MALTA (CONS-IND) CARRY QUOTES FROM MED NEWS HEADLINE STROY.

3. COMMENT: QADHAFI MAY WELL HAVE RAISED SUBJECT WITH

MINTOFF AT SOME POINT, AND IT IS LIKELY THAT MINTOFF GAVE A RESPONSE ALONG LINES SIMILAR TO THOSE REPORTED. HE WOULD NOT WISH TO ANGER HIS "BLOOD BROTHER" BY TELLING HI THAT
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THE MALTESE PEOPLE WOULD NOT ACCEPT SUCH A UNION. REPORT

COULD BENEFIT NATIONALIST OPPOSITION IF THEY ARE ABLE AND
WILLING ADEQUATELY TO EXPLOIT IT IN PARLIAMENT.GETZ

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